

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted preliminarily to the issuance of an Office Action in the above identified application.

With the present Amendment applicants have amended the specification to bring it in compliance with the requirements of the U.S. Patent Practice.

The original claims have been canceled and replaced with a new set of claims including claim 37, the broadest claim on file, and claims 38-70 which depend on it.

The new claims have been drafted in accordance with the claims presented in the international patent application PCT/DE99/01733.

Consideration and allowance of present application is most respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims and/or drawings be further amended or corrected in

formal respects in order to place this case in condition for final allowance, then it is respectfully requested that such amendments or corrections be carried out by Examiner's Amendment, and the case be passed to issue. Any costs involved should be charged to the deposit account of the undersigned (No. 19-4675). Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance, he is invited to telephone the undersigned (at 631-549-4700).

Respectfully submitted,



Michael J. Striker
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 27233